

Golden Spike Rail History To Be Told By Author at March Membership Meet



Joining of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads in the Territory of Utah desert in 1869 is remembered in this artist's rendering of a contemporary photograph. The legendary Golden Spike ceremony was not held here, but at Monument, Utah.

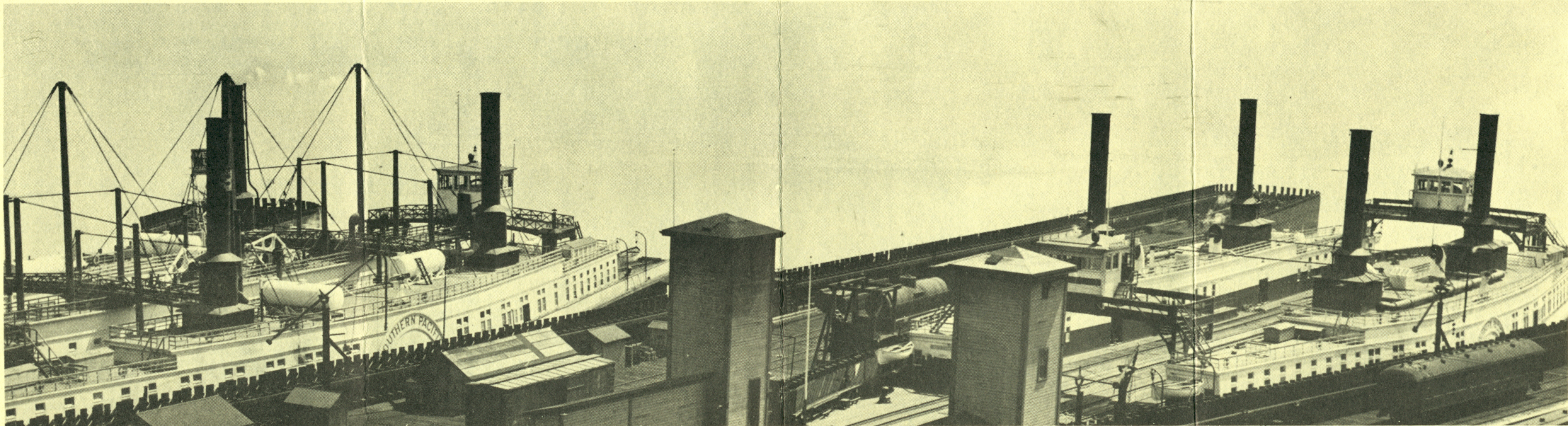
David F. Myrick, author and authority on western railroad history, will address the Spring general membership meeting next month on the topic *Golden Spike Centennial*, with sidelights on early railroading in Contra Costa County.

The meeting will be held at the Red Rooster restaurant in Walnut Creek, Wednesday, March 12, 1969. No-host cocktails will be served at 6:30, followed by dinner and program at 7 p.m.

Mr. Myrick is an especially well qualified speaker in matters of the iron horse,

having spent a substantial portion of his adult years working in, studying and writing about railroads. He is a member of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, the Library Committee of the California Historical Society, the Board of Directors of the Nevada Historical Society. He is a

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This is how trains used to cross the Carquinez Strait. Railcars were rolled aboard these huge ferryboats which

MYRICK TO TELL OBSCURE LORE OF GOLD SPIKE EPIC

(Continued from page 1)

native Californian, born in Santa Barbara, and was schooled in that city and in Colorado Springs.

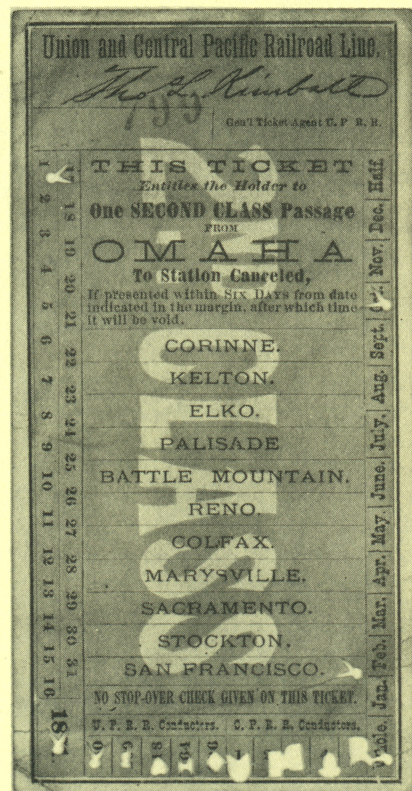
The speaker has to his credit numerous articles on western U.S. history and the definitive, two-volume history, *Railroads of Nevada*, published in 1962.

Driving of the Golden Spike at Monument, Utah, May 10, 1969, has been commemorated in words and pictures in a century of admiration for the epic job of tracklaying which joined the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads at a sand-blown shacktown called Promontory, more than a day's ride from anywhere. Mr. Myrick will reveal some curious, little known aspects of the rail line's completion and the symbolic spike driving.

Society members will have an opportunity, before and after the meeting, to view a special collection of early Contra Costa railroad pictures and other choo-choo memorabilia, to be arranged by Vice President Louis L. Stein.

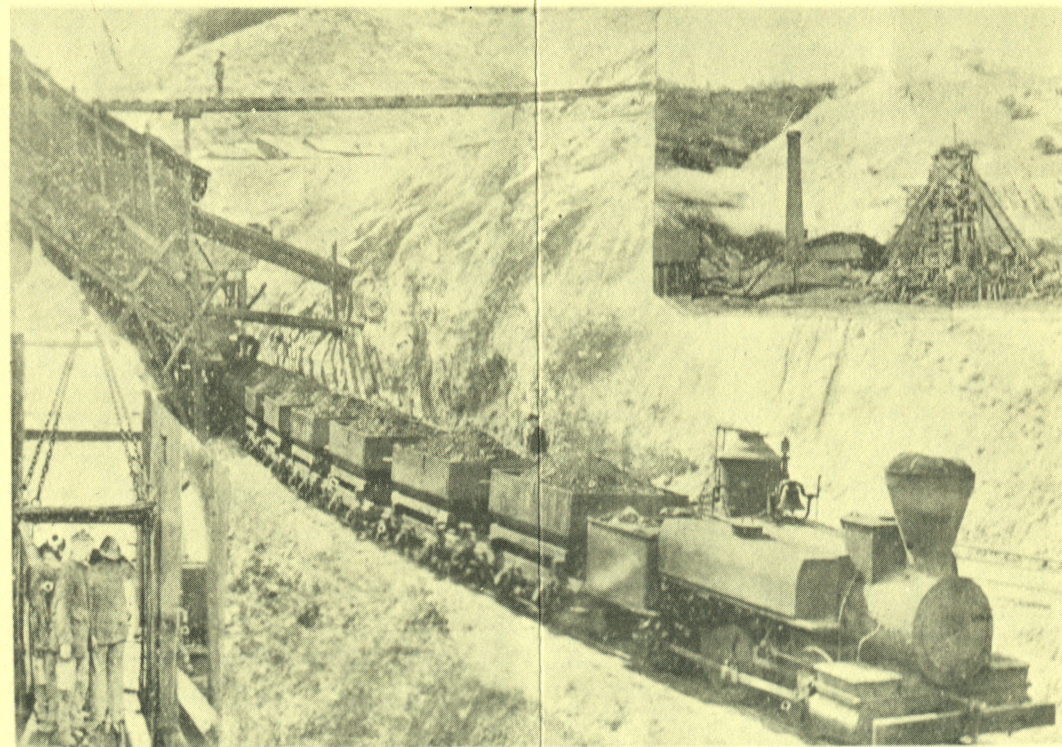
Members are urged to make early reservations for the meeting with Secretary James B. Jory.

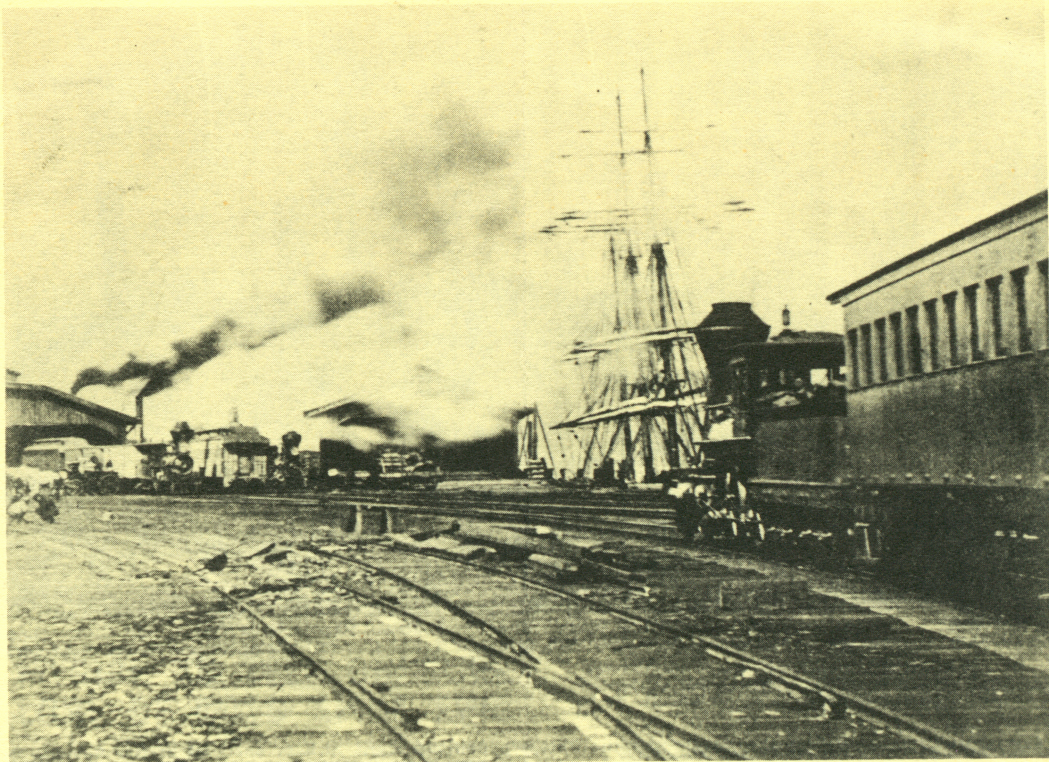
Old railroad ticket was issued October 17, 1871, for a through, second-class trip from Omaha to San Francisco, on the Union Pacific and Central Pacific lines.



plied between Benicia and Port Costa. Photo above shows the Southern Pacific ferry slips at Port Costa. These four-stacker vessels, the Contra Costa, right, and the Solano, left, had four rail tracks abreast on the main deck.

The first railroad in Contra Costa County was the Pittsburg Railroad, built to haul coal out of the Somersville mines. This photo, taken about 1897, shows the diminutive cars being loaded at the Somersville coal bunkers.





This rare photo depicts the old Long Wharf at Oakland, end of the line for the transcontinental railroad. Note the masts of sailing ship tied to wharf.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DINNER & PROGRAM

Speaker David F. Myrick

Date Wednesday,
March 12, 1969

Place The Red Rooster
Oak Grove & Ygnacio
Walnut Creek

Time 7 p.m.

Dinner \$4.50

Reservations To James Jory, Secty,
P.O. Box 190

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